

Violence Prevention Convening Sessions

CDC/ATSDR 20th Biannual Tribal Advisory Committee
Meeting
October 15, 2020

National Indian Health Board

Mission Statement: Established by the Tribes to advocate as the united voice of federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes, NIHB seeks to reinforce Tribal sovereignty, strengthen Tribal health systems, secure resources, and build capacity to achieve the highest level of health and well-being for our People.



Introductions



Project Overview

- Exploration of violence prevention, barriers, and protective factors
- Three convenings held in April, May, and June
- Participants from community-based organizations and area Indian health boards
- Facilitated discussion sessions



Acknowledgment

We want to acknowledge the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on this project, our participants, and the communities they serve. We know the pandemic has stressed every aspect of society, including the incidence of violence. We thank every participant for their time and energy in these difficult times.



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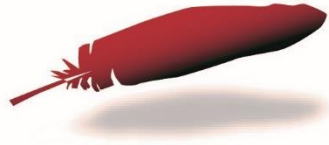
SUMMARY

Note about summary

This presentation summarizes common themes from what participants shared, drawn from their collective 100+ years of experience and knowledge.



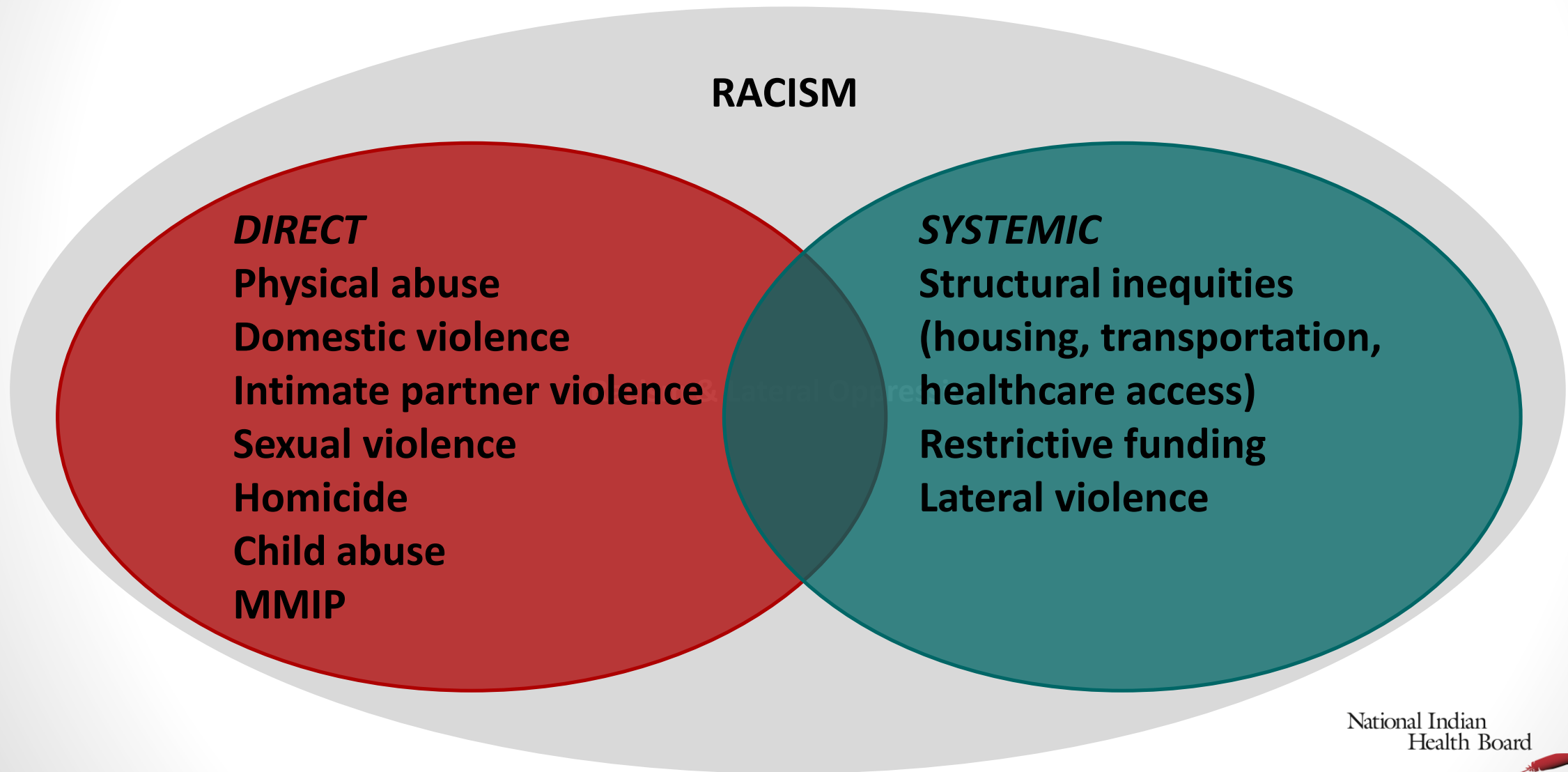
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PART 1

UNDERSTANDING VIOLENCE

Understanding Violence



Cycles of Violence

- Violence impacts the community, as well as the survivor and perpetrator
 - Responses need to consider impacts on individuals and community as whole
 - Certain groups (such as LGBTQ+ or persons with disabilities) may not be included in current services or prevention efforts
- Violence is cyclical – need to look at models other than “prevention before” and “response after”

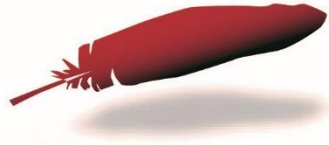


Navajo Nation

Violence Prevention



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PART 2

ROOT CAUSES OF VIOLENCE

Root Causes of Violence

- Historical, intergenerational, and current trauma impacts violence
- Societal normalization can perpetuate certain forms
 - Wide responsibility for enabling behaviors
- Lack of accountability, esp. for perpetrators in positions of power



Root Causes of Violence

- Genocidal policies of colonization
 - Results in loss of cultural identity and value systems
- Substance use, particularly alcohol and opioids, disrupt cohesiveness



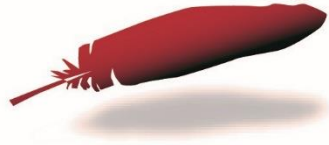


Impact of Substance Use:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rowiH4wu8Lk&t=4s>



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PART 3

BARRIERS TO VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Barriers to Violence Prevention

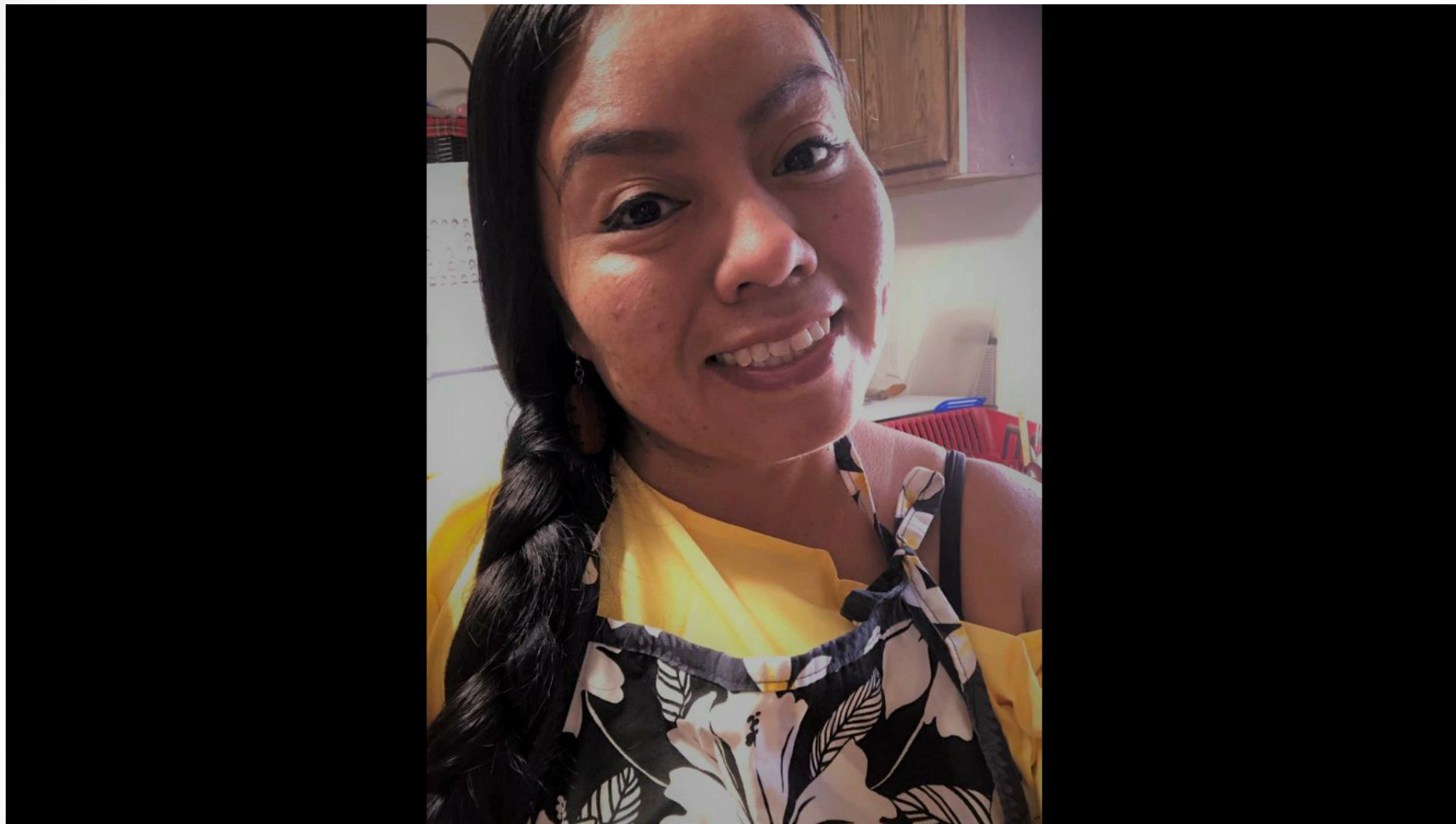
- Lack of accountability for perpetrators in positions of power
 - Creates climate to continue violence
- “Funding trauma”, vs. “Funding wellness”
 - Grant formatting dictates what Tribes can/cannot do
 - Inability of culturally appropriate practices, limited frequency, focus on response hinder prevention work



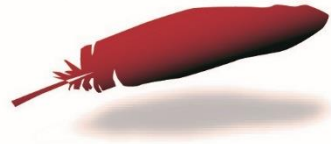
Barriers to Violence Prevention

- Lack of acknowledgment of Tribal sovereignty and ways of knowing
 - Models for violence prevention do not reflect traditional ways of responding to violence
- Stigma of trauma and mental health limits healing
- Burnout of staff, community, vicarious trauma, high turnover





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PART 4

PROTECTIVE FACTORS AND PREVENTATIVE STRATEGIES

Protective Factors

- Native identity and knowledge of cultural teachings
 - Teachings and traditions help individual develop identity
 - Songs, storytelling, and generational sharing pass on knowledge
- Ceremonies (including rites of passage and coming of age) instill cultural values, roles, responsibilities



Protective Factors

- Healthy family cohesiveness – family and community teach roles, values
 - Communication and open dialogue
- Language
 - Signifies relationships, reinforces community bonds



Preventative Strategies

- Healing is essential
 - Participants described work with survivors and the importance of culturally-appropriate services
 - Perpetrators also need to heal – hold previous trauma
 - Healing work not usually grant-funded



Preventative Strategies

- Support and services for perpetrators
 - Perpetrators continue to exist in communities where they commit violence
 - Examples shared included batterers' intervention programs
 - Previous unhealed trauma can lead to future violence



Preventative Strategies

- Engagement of men is critical
 - Men also experience violence and trauma, need for healing
- Focus on youth
 - Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), such as experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect, or witnessing violence in the home/community, can lead to future violence
 - Importance of preventing and recognizing early
 - Have conversations to build identity



Participant Video (See Dropbox)



Thank You/ Questions?

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